

SYSTEM FOR IDENTIFYING PREMATURE RUPTURE OF MEMBRANE DURING PREGNANCY

Abstract

An article for the identification of the premature rupture of a membrane during pregnancy is disclosed. In its preferred embodiment, the article comprises a pad having an upper outer layer, a lower outer layer, and an intermediate pH-responsive component. A double-sided adhesive strip is attached to the lower outer layer. The upper outer layer is composed of a liquid permeable material. Intermediate of the upper out layer and the inner outer layer is a pH-sensitive component. This intermediate layer is a pH-sensitive material and may be one of a variety of such materials, although a preferred material is nitrazine paper. In the presence of an alkaline fluid, such as amniotic fluid, the pH-sensitive material responds by turning to a purple-blue color. The change in color acts as a visual indicator to the wearer of the possible presence of amniotic fluid outside of the amniotic sac. As an alternate embodiment, the article may be fitted with a slide for gathering amniotic fluid, thus allowing the examining physician to make a visual evaluation.